Met Office

Storm Desmond

5 - 6 December 2015 - Storm Desmond brought strong winds and heavy rainfall with the worst impacts in Cumbria.

Storm Desmond was the fourth named storm of the season and brought severe gales with gusts up to 81 mph. This was accompanied by record-breaking rainfall which brought flooding to areas across the north of England.

Honister Pass in Cumbria recorded 341.4 mm of rainfall in the 24-hours up to 1800 GMT on 5 December 2015 making a new UK record.

The same period of rainfall also set a new 48-hour record (from 0900 to 0900 hrs) with 405 mm rainfall recorded at Thirlmere in Cumbria in just 38 hours.

Gust speeds and rainfall totals

Storm Desmond - Maximum gust speeds (mph)

Site Name	Area	Max Gust (mph)
Capel Curig	Gwynedd	81
Needles Old Battery	Isle of Wight	78
High Bradfield	South Yorkshire	77
Redesdale Camp	Northumberland	73
Loftus	Cleveland	70
Aberdaron	Gwynedd	69
Charterhall	Berwickshire	68
Valley	Gwynedd	67

Storm Desmond - 48 hour rainfall totals

Site Name	Area	Rainfall Total mm
Thirlmere	Cumbria	405
Shap	Cumbria	262.6
Keswick	Cumbria	178.4
Blencathra	Cumbria	174.8
Capel Curig	Gwynedd	170.6
Tyndrum	Perthshire	141
Eskdalemuir	Dumfriesshire	139.2
Bainbridge	North Yorkshire	136
Cluanie Inn	Ross & Cromarty	132.8

Impacts of Storm Desmond

The record-breaking rainfall associated with Storm Desmond caused severe disruption flooding 5,200 homes across Lancashire and Cumbria.

Several major roads across the north of England and Scotland were flooded and there was major disruption to rail services in the north of England while a landslide closed a section of the West Coast mainline between Preston and Carlisle.

43,000 homes across north-east England were left without power and on 5 December 61,000 homes in Lancaster lost power when the electrical substation was flooded.

Storm Desmond satellite imagery